

'Trishna' safe at St. Helena

By A Staff Reporter

BOMBAY, Dec. 3: The Indian Army yacht 'Trishna', which lost radio contact as it cruised along the African coast, reached the island of St. Helena in the Atlantic coast yesterday, 13 days ahead of schedule, according to defence sources.

A defence spokesman said all six officers of the army corps of engineers aboard 'Trishna', which had successfully negotiated erratic currents, were safe. The six of them aboard the yacht were to navigate the globe in the 37-foot fibreglass yacht for "pure and simple" adventure.

Free Press News Service from New Delhi adds: The skipper of the yacht, Major K S Rao had reported from St. Helena that they had encountered many gales while rounding the Cape of Good Hope and during their journey from Mauritius to St. Helena. While negotiating the Cape of storms the expedition's high frequency aerial and radio sets got damaged and the yacht was out of communication for the last fifteen days, he said.

'Trishna' with its six-member team had left Bombay on September 28 for its 50,000 km round the world trip. The cruise has been sponsored by the Sappers Adventurers Foundation of the Army and is backed by the Ministry of Defence. The team will leave St. Helena on December 8 to sail to Ascension Island, Barbados, and onwards to Jamaica, Panama, Tahiti, Auckland, Sydney, Jakarta and Singapore. The entire expedition is scheduled to last around one-and-half years and the team is likely to be back in India by March 1987.